

## **COGNITION & LANGUAGE**

Some cognitive skills necessary for language development include:

- Symbol representation
- Cause and effect
- Object permanence
- Interactive turn-taking
- Joint attention
- Good Resource: Developing Cognition in Young Hearing Impaired Children, published by HOPE, Inc.

### **Visual Strategies Used To Facilitate Language Acquisition**

- Get the attention of the child before speaking/signing (using voice, motion or touch)
- Make sure lighting is adequate
- Using appropriate facial expression, interesting voice (“Parentese”)
- Repeat signs or word
- Don’t allow frequency of communication to become annoying during play
- Use short, simple phrases & sentences at first
- Positioning self and object in visual field
- Moving sign to object or onto child

### **Development of Sign Language**

Receptive sign language development:

- Develops before expressive skills
- Able to understand ~50 words/signs before expressing self in sign spontaneously
- Developmental sequence of understanding:
  - Facial expression
  - Tone of voice (if accessible)
  - Body language
  - Gestures
  - Single words, iconic before abstract
  - Simple phrases or sentences
  - Longer sentences

Expressive Language Development:

- Cooing, gurgling (mostly vowels)
- Babbling (vocal and manual)
- Non-verbal communication (facial expression, pulling, pointing, etc.)
- Baby signing (approximations of adult signs, sign jabbering and invented sign)

- True signing (appear at = age w/ hearing peers, or 2-3 mos before)
  - Location is usually correct or in vicinity
  - Movement is often correct
  - Handshake is most difficult